## JANUARY 12, 2025 | BAPTISM OF OUR LORD **WORSHIP AT WEST**

SERVICE OF WORD, FONT, WELCOME, AND HOLY WORK

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please take a moment to complete the care pad in your pew.

Peace be with you. And also with you.

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service. Thanks be to God.

### **PRELUDE**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters and in his temple all cry, "Glory!" the heavens were torn open and the Spirit descended And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son

> Fear not, for I have redeemed you: I have called you by name, you are mine.

### INVOCATION

Reign and Rain down, Glorious One Salvation flows from your side Living water to our desert to our frail clay to our dust Creation flows from you New life springing up Hope and wholeness Budding and blooming in our wasteland Flood us and fill us, King of kings Let all the earth drink of you Quenched with the fullness of your victorious love. Amen.

### \*HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION **FOUNDATION**



### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Immanuel. you are God with us. You abide with us through it all. While you journey alongside us in life, you are speaking to us. We admit to you that we do not listen to your voice. We read Scripture and ignore it, we feel a nudge from you, a call to action, and we explain it away. We fill our lives with so much noise that we can't hear you even when we try. Please soften our hearts so that we might be more perceptive to your leading as we come to you in silent confession.

### \*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

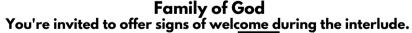
Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness.

Sing a song of redemption!
Let sorrow and sighing be no more.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept.

### \*SUNG RESPONSE Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

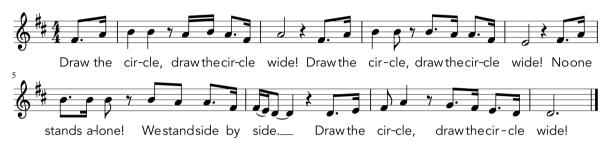




\*PASSING OF THE PEACE



### SONG OF WELCOME Draw the Circle Wide



### The Jesus-y Questions The Essential Ouestions

### The Covenant

Let us, members of the Westfield Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ. We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayer as we share the hope and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

### Barbara Chadwick, Johnston, Rhode Island

I am a single mom from Rhode Island. My pronours are she/her. I am the mom of three adult sons and Gram to 3 beautiful grandbabies. I enjoy gardening, reading, creating and sharing acts of kindness with others. I love learning new things and enjoy taking craft classes with friends. I also enjoy adventures with my two rescue labs Mac and Finn.

Interested in becoming an official member of the Westfield family? Start here: westfielducc.org/join

### **BAPTISMAL SONG** You Are Mine



### **GREETING**

Dear friends, on this day of re-creation We thank you, God, for the gift of creation we recall Christ's baptism. and we claim and remember our own. We gather at this font of living water to celebrate the gift of God's redeeming grace.

For just as the body is one and has many members and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, male or femaleand were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ? I do.

> Do you believe in God? I believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? I believe in Jesus Christ, the only one begotten of God before all worlds.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? I believe in God, the Holy Spirit.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer? I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being? I will, with God's help.

Let us pray.

In this and all we do, keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

**BLESSING OF BLANKETS** 

### **BLESSING OF WATER**

called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Noah you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses and Miriam your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

The water is poured.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water that by it we may be reminded of our baptism into Jesus Christ and that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may be kept faithful until you receive us at last in your eternal home.

Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

### THE CONGREGATION **REMEMBERS BAPTISM**

You're invited to come forward and touch the water, remembering your own baptism. Afterward, we pray together.

Eternal God, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins, Bless us now with the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised.

Keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

### **NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION**

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you:

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you:

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned.

and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight.

and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up',

and to the south, 'Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the

everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

### THE MESSAGE

But now, God's Message,

the God who made you in the first place, Jacob.

the One who got you started, Israel: "Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you.

I've called your name. You're mine. When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you.

When you're in rough waters, you will not go down.

When you're between a rock and a hard place.

it won't be a dead end-

Because I am God, your personal God,

The Holy of Israel, your Savior.

I paid a huge price for you:

all of Egypt, with rich Cush and Seba thrown in!

That's how much you mean to me! That's how much I love you!

I'd sell off the whole world to get you back, trade the creation just for you.

"So don't be afraid: I'm with you.

I'll round up all your scattered children, pull them in from east and west.

I'll send orders north and south:

'Send them back.

Return my sons from distant lands, my daughters from faraway places. I want them back, every last one who bears my name,

every man, woman, and child Whom I created for my glory,

yes, personally formed and made each one."

### **GOSPEL LESSON**

you I am well pleased.'

### **NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION**

As the people were filled with expectation. and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily

form like a dove. And a voice came from

heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with

LUKE 3:15-17,21-22

### THE MESSAGE

The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, "Could this John be the Messiah?"

But John intervened: "I'm baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned."

After all the people were baptized, Jesus was baptized. As he was praying, the sky opened up and the Holy Spirit, like a dove descending, came down on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life."

\*PLEASE RISE N BODY OR SPIR

### **RESPONSE TO READING**

Through this scripture, God is still speaking. And we are listening.

### SERMON THE REV. DR. JONATHAN CHAPMAN

### **SHARING OF CONCERNS**

For all these persons and all who are in need. **Hold your people near, O God.** 

### **SHARING OF JOYS**

We give thanks to God for these blessings. **Thanks be to God.** 

### CALL TO PRAYER Christ Be Our Light



### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father,
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.



### **CALL TO ORDER**

### PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET

**QUESTIONS** 

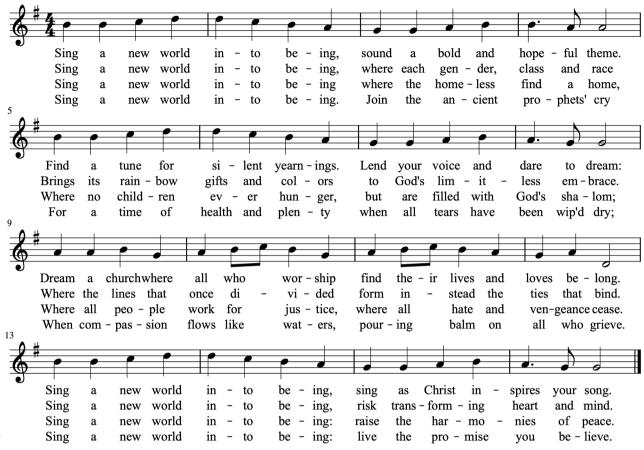
**PRAYER** 

**VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2025 BUDGET** 



# GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US FORTH IN MISSION FOR THE WORLD.

### \*SING A NEW WORLD INTO BEING HYMN TO JOY



# \*BENEDICTION POSTLUDE

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### BAKED POTATO BAR!

JAN. 18, 4:30P-6:30P.
TIX ONLINE
(SHOPWESTFIELD.ORG)
OR AT THE DOOR

### VALENTINE CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

PLANNING MEETING TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

# BIBLE STUDY RETURNS

FEB. 4 AT 6P LADIES' PARLOR

# FARMERS' MARKET AT WESTFIELD

FIRST & THIRD SATURDAYS
OF THE MONTH 9A-12P

# MENDAE NOTE

### SOUP ON SUNDAY FAMILY MEAL JAN. 26 AT 5P | FELLOWSHIP HALL FREE! COME EAT! VISIT! PLAY!

SUPPLY
COLLECTION
FOR OUR
UNHOUSED
POPULATION
THRU JAN 31

- travel deodorants
- disposable razors
- travel shaving cream
- travel toothpaste
- tooth brushes
- soap
- socks
- feminine products
- tarps

# LASAGNA OF LOVE

PICK UP FEB 1 FROM 9A-11:30A ORDER ONLINE: SHOPWESTFIELD.ORG

### **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

LAY LITURGIST: Missy Meyers

**GREETER:**Judy Haines

COUNTERS: Elaine Smith, Marilyn Wild

OFFERING: Elaine Smith, Craig Bloomer, Earl & Marilyn Wild

### **OUR FAITHFULNESS**

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK
139

AVERAGE THIS MONTH 139



LINKTR.EE/WESTFIELDUCC

# **NESTFIEL** BOUT

### **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:**

We LOVE kids at Westfield. Children are welcome to stay through the whole service. If your child is more active, relax! We believe God put the wiggles and giggles in children. Don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of worship. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

### THE REV. DR. JONATHAN CHAPMAN



The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Chapman graduated from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in May 2019 with his Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Witness and Proclamation. His capstone work, The Year of Mark, received the People's Choice Award among his cohort. While at Candler for his Master of Divinity (May, 2010), he was active with the Office of Worship, and was awarded the Hoyt Hickman Award for Outstanding Liturgical Scholarship. Jonathan is a 2007 Congregational Fellow and 2006 Undergraduate Fellow with The Fund for Theological Education. He graduated from Elon University in 2007 with a degree in Religious Studies. At Elon, he was selected as a Leadership Fellow and was awarded the W. L. Monroe Christian Education and Personality Award in the 2007. While at Elon he joined Elon Community Church, United Church of Christ, the congregation in which he was ordained.

Jonathan joined Westfield in October of 2012 and was officially installed as Pastor and Teacher in May of 2013, presiding over its revitalization. In October of 2022, he celebrated a decade with Westfield.

He was selected to be a part of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative, a program sponsored by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ that works with young clergy committed to parish ministry through a decade-long relationship. Dr. Chapman consults with congregations on a variety of topics ranging from revitalization to worship to marketing their churches. He married his husband, Greg (pastor of Enfield Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Enfield, CT), in December of 2014 at Westfield. Jonathan is an award-winning stained glass artist.

While Rev. Jonathan is on call 24/7, his onsite Hours are Monday - Thursday, 9am-12pm. He is available Sunday by appointment. His days off are Friday and Saturday.

Find time with Rev. Jon by scanning the QR code or going to calendly.com/revjonchapman

Contact info for Rev. Jonathan:

- (o) 860-774-8438
- (m) 770-265-2171 (text ok)
- (e) jon@westfielducc.org



Ministers
Pastor
Pastor
Director of Welcome
Director of Music
Director of Children
Church Administrator
Facilities Caretaker

All of the Congregation The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Chapman Kevin Williams Sue Theroux Donna Bartholomew Jessica Payette Michelle Plasse